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1954-48-49 **File No.** S-104

CLASS.

P.W. **DEPARTMENT**

M. **BRANCH**

Subject:— Resolution of Agenda.

Item No. 12.

Malariogenic Activities

of Rly. & Works Deptt.

BLK 1947

File No. S-104 M Br.

Ptd. Secrt. Bhp. 24 A

G. R., G. D., No. 2408, dated 22-6-22.]

Correspondence

DOCKET SHEET

Subject :—

File No. S – 104.

P. W **DEPT.**

M. **BRANCH.**

References :—

Copies of pages from the main file B[M].

Date.	To whom sent.	Notes and instructions.

RESOLUTION ON AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 --MALARIOGENIC ACTIVITIES OF THE RAILWAY AND WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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(1) Railway had road construction was often undertaken in the past without due regard to public health principles, thereby creating malariogenic conditions on a large scale. These have resulted mainly from the creation of isolated borrow-pits, high embankments and roads and Railways which interfere with the natural drainage of the country in the absence of adquate provision for the rapid disposal of spill and flood water. Consequently large tracts of the country have become subject to varying degrees of prevelance of malaria. The Conference recommends that the Government of India should make it a condition that railway projects for extension of lines, material alterations to existing lines and all projects consting Rs.5,000/- or more including construction or extension of embankments should first be referred to the Director of Malaria Institute of India in regard to the malariological aspects of these works. The Director should consult the Provincial or State Government concerned where the works are to be executed in the territo--ries of a Province or State, and obtain concurrence of that Government regarding his own proposals for meeting the mala--riogenic problems associated with these works and, in particular, the adequacy of the water ways provided in the project concerned and their suitability from the public health point of view. In the case of works of an urgent nature, such as repairs to breaches in a railway embankment for which it would not be possible to obtain the views of the Director, Malaria Institute and the concurrence of the Provincial or State Government beforehand, the Director and the Government concerned should be intimated as soon as possible after the works are started and their recommendations for remedying the defects, if any, from the public health point of view, should be given effect to. Similar conditions should also be laid down for observance by other Central Government departments and departments of Provincial and

state .....

State Government which are concerned with engineering operations likely to produce malarigenic conditions.

It is essential that such consultations should be done as expeditiously as possible in order not to cause unnecessary delay in proceeding with important railway construction.

(2) In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee set up by the Government of India in 1946 to suggest measures to control man-made malaria no engineering project of any description undertaken under governmental or other auspices should be started without adequate consideration being given to its malariological aspects and without provi--sion, in the original estimates for the project, for the necessary anti-malarial works.

(3) This conference further recommends that in addition to the recommendations of the said Committee, Railways, Road Boards, Canal Construction Boards and other Departments concerned should also note the following directions for the guidance of all engineering works:--

(i) When the railways have to cross the natural spill-ways of a river in deltaic areas or cross the natural lines of drainage in non-deltaic areas and when high embankments have to be built, ample provision should be made for the free passage of water through the embankment by means of culverts and bridges.

(ii) Such damage to health as is being done by existing embankments should be rectified without delay.

(iii) Existing borrowpits should be made into continuous and properly graded channels leading, as far as possible, to the nearest drainage channel or tank.

(iv) In the construction of bridges and culverts, the Railway should provided such waterways as will secure the maximum afflux of 12* inches in an ordinary flood and not exceeding two feet* in an exceptional flood,. In the event of afflux being afterwards found to exceed these limits, the Railway Administration concerned should be prepared to provide additional waterways to brind the afflux within permissible

limits, ...

limits, i.e. 12 inches* in ordinary floods and two feet* in exceptional floods.

*After the Conference the Director of Health Services reported that, so far as the province of West Bengal was concerned he had a scertained the views of the authorities of the Irrigation and other Engineering Departments and that these authorities were of the opinion that the basis on which they had been working so far, namely, 6 inches in the cast of ordinary floods and 12 inches in the case of exterordinary floods should be authored to.

(v) The construction of paved floors under bridges over rivers and channels should be avoided as far as possible. When they are unavoidable, their levels should conform to the pre-existing bed level, upstream and downstream.

(vi) In the interests of the public health, all depressions holding water within the jurisdiction of the Railway and other Public Departments should be kept free of aquatic vegetation.

(vii) should khals, rivers, bils and tanks owned by the Railway be leased out, the following clause should be included in the terms of the lease:-

> "That the lessee will hold himself responsible for keeping the leased-out khal, river and/or tank free of aquatic vegetation. In case of failure to do so, the leade shall stand cancelled and the lessee shall not be entitled to any compensation for the cancellation of the lease."

(viii) There should be close co-operation between the health authorities of Railways, Provincial Governments and local bodies in order to ensure that the necessary antimalaria measures are carried out effectively.

(ix) A suitable course in malariology for engineers should be established in as many Engineering Colleges as possible.

(x) The Conference also recommends for consideration by Railway Administrations the desirability of planting trees near the boundary of railway land and not in a manner to

interfere .....

interf-ere with the work of the railways. Such aforestation is likely to be of value in reducing the level of sub-soil water and will ~~xx~~ xxtherefore probably prove to be a useful anti-malaria measure. ~~xxxxxx~~ The planting of trees should however be done in such a manner as not to permit of the resulting shade affecting the neighbouring land which is not in the possession of the railway administration.

SECOND HEALTH MINISTRES' CONFERENCE - AUGUST 1948.

Resolution on Agenda Item No. 15.

PROHIBTING CONSTRUCTION OF BACK-TO-BACK OR ILL VENTILATED HOUSES.

Back to back and ill ventilated houses, which are still a common feature in many industrial and railway areas, are all important sources of diseases of the respiratory system, and specially of turberculosis of the lungs. This conference strongly recommends that the construction of back-to-back and lean-to structures and of buildings without adequate provision for "through ventilation" should be prohibited. Such prohibition should apply to all houses built by govern--ment, railways, local bodies, employers of labour, building societies and all other organisations interested in housing construction. The necessary legal provisions should be made to make this restriction universally applicable and such restriction be enforced through the issue of directives from the Central, Provincial and State Governments to all concerned.

No. 4610/33/27953-D,

Health and Local Government Department,

Bombay Castle, 16th October 1948.

Forwarded to -

the Commissioners of Divisions (Resolution No. 15 only),

the Registrar of Co-operative Society (Resolution No. 15 only),

the Revenue Department (Resolution No. 15 only),

the Public Works Department (Resolution Nos. 12 and 15),

for remarks.

By order of the Governor of Bombay,

Sd/-

Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bombay,

Health and Local Government Department.

No. S. 104/58756-M. Public Works Department.

Bombay Castle, 19th November 1948.

Copies forwarded to -

the Superintending Engineers of Circles,

the Executive Engineers of Divisions,

for information.

By order of the Governor of Bombay,

Id/-

(A.G.Maydeo),

for Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department.

Copy forwarded for information to the Health and Local Government Department, with reference to its endorsement No. 4610/33/27953-D, dated the 16th October 1948.

2. The Railway projects are considered and carried out by the Railway Board.

DJT./-